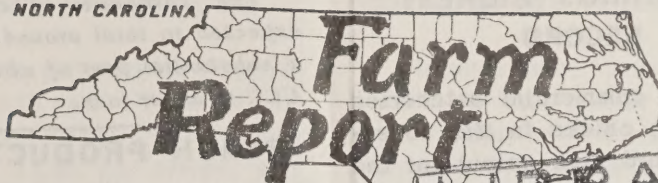


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NORTH CAROLINA

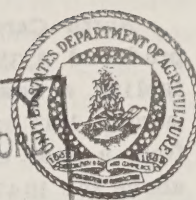


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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



No. 136

RALEIGH, N. C.

JUNE 15, 1953

RAINS RELIEVE DROUTH CONDITIONS

TOBACCO TRANSPLANTING AGAIN UNDERWAY

JUNE 1 CROP OUTLOOK

As of June 1, the condition of growing crops was beginning to show some decline due to lack of adequate moisture supplies. Tobacco transplanting was being delayed due to both the scarcity of plants and dry soils, particularly in the Old and Middle Belt Counties. Resetting requirements have been greater than usual and growth is quite variable. Generally good rains have been received in all sections of the

(Continued on Page 8)

WHEAT ESTIMATE UNCHANGED

Reports from Tar Heel wheat growers as of June 1 continue to indicate a 1953 crop of 8.8 million bushels, nearly 6 percent larger than the 1952 production of 8,316,000 bushels. Such a crop would be the second largest produced in the State.

The indicated yield per acre of 22.0 bushels is only 1 bushel short of the record 23.0 bushel average attained in 1951. The 10-year (1942-51) average yield for the State is 16.1 bushels per acre.

SMALL GRAINS BEING HARVESTED



MAY HATCHINGS HIGHEST OF RECORD

North Carolina commercial hatcheries produced 6,353,000 chicks in May to establish a new record high output for the month. May hatchings were up almost 10% from a year earlier and were almost 18% above the 1947-51 average May production.

During the first five months of 1953 commercial hatcheries in the State have produced 34,124,000 chicks -- 3.8% more than the 32,890,000 produced during the same period last year.

Prices received by North Carolina hatcheries during May for straight run heavy and cross breed chicks averaged \$14.50 per hundred. This was the same as the average price received in April. Straight run light breeds were up 50 cents per hundred from a month earlier, averaging \$15.50 per hundred chicks.

U. S. farmers received about 8.6 billion dollars in the first 4 months of 1953, 2 percent less than last year. Prices averaged 10 percent below a year ago, but the volume of marketings was larger.

BROILER OUTPUT CONTINUES AT RECORD HIGH LEVEL

Chick placements in the Central and Western commercial broiler areas of North Carolina continued at a record high level during May. Hatcherymen and dealers serving the areas report they placed 4,897,000 chicks with broiler producers in May to establish a new record high for placements during the month.

Placements were up 3% from the preceding month and were 17% greater than May placements a year ago.

Hatcheries serving the commercial broiler broiler areas placed 6,635,000 eggs in incubators during the month -- down almost 10% from April settings of 7,339,000 eggs, but 18% above May, 1952 settings.

The 5,458,000 chicks hatched represent a drop of 12% from a month earlier. The May output, however, was 15% greater than the total hatch during the same month last year.

The carry-over of corn in the U. S. is expected to total around 800 million bushels, a substantial part of which will be owned by CCC or under loan.

PEACH PRODUCTION JUNE 1

STATE	AVERAGE 1942-51	1952	INDICATED 1953
THOUSAND BUSHEL			
N. C.	1,731	1,648	1,360
S. C.	3,314	3,286	3,380
GA.	3,802	2,496 1/	3,220
FLA.	59	18	24
ALA.	826	585	576
MISS.	596	432	544
ARK.	1,839	1,539	1,782
LA.	174	66	156
OKLA.	405	247	300
TEXAS.	1,149	346	1,102
10 STATES	13,895	10,663	12,444

1/ Includes excess cullage of harvested fruit, 1952 - Georgia, 100,000 bushels.

PEACH PROSPECTS SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Peach growers in North Carolina indicated on June 1 they expect to harvest 1,360,000 bushels of peaches this year. This is 40,000 bushels less than the May 1 estimate, and almost 18% less than the 1,648,000 bushels harvested last year. The 1942-51 average production for the State is 1,731,000 bushels.

Generally the crop is in good condition in most areas. The fruit sized well before the seed hardened and orchards are unusually free from insects and disease. Dry weather the latter part of May caused some concern among orchardists. However, rains since the first of June have virtually assured good sizing.

Harvest of the early varieties is now underway and Elbertas are expected to start moving in the Sandhills area around the middle of July.

Production in the 10 major peach producing states is currently estimated at 12,444,000 bushels. This is almost 3 percent above the May 1 estimate, 17 percent above production in 1952 but 10 percent below the 1942-51 average.

Total production for the United States is now placed at 63,033,000 bushels - up slightly from the 1952 crop of 62,650,000 bushels.

LOAN PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The United States Department of Agriculture has announced that wheat will be supported at \$2.40 per bushel, oats at 98¢ per bushel, rye at \$1.61 per bushel and barley at \$1.37 per bushel, to producers in North Carolina through loan and purchase agreement programs.

In order to take advantage of the Price Support Programs, it will be necessary for the producers to provide storage on their farms, as there is only a nominal amount of warehouse storage available in this State. If the producer does not have storage space available or funds with which to purchase storage, the Production and Marketing Administration is loaning up to 80% of the cost of a storage bin. These loans bear 4% interest and are repayable in four equal annual installments. A producer can purchase a thousand bushel farm storage bin for approximately \$380.00. Dealers in North Carolina have these bins in stock. The farmer, with the assistance of one man, can put up a bin on his own farm in one day.

Grain producers desiring additional information on the Price Support Program should check with their local County PMA Office.

ICE CREAM & BUTTER MANUFACTURED

Preliminary estimates show 13,364,000 gallons of ice cream manufactured in North Carolina during the year 1952. This is 10 percent more than the 12,137,000 gallons made during 1951 and 5 percent more than the 12,675,000 gallons made during 1950. The record year for ice cream production in the State was 1946 when 16,366,000 gallons were manufactured.

Production of creamery butter totaled 1,264,000 pounds during 1952, compared with 1,267,000 pounds in 1951 and 2,482,000 pounds in 1950.

IRISH POTATO PROSPECTS DECREASE

Reports from North Carolina's commercial early Irish potato growers, as of June 1, indicate production will total 4,200,000 bushels. This production, if realized, will mean an average yield of 210 bushels per acre from the State's 20,000 acres of commercial potatoes. Dry weather, during May, resulted in an estimated decrease of 10 bushels per acre yield from last month's prospective average yield of 220 bushels.

In 1952 there were 3,145,000 bushels produced in the State from 17,000 acres, giving an average yield of 185 bushels per acre. The average production for the ten year period (1942-51) is 5,407,000 bushels, resulting in an average yield of 183 bushels per acre. The commercial early acreage for the ten year period averaged 30,350 acres.

Harvest of the North Carolina crop is well underway and is expected to continue for a longer period of time than usual due to late planting and adverse weather conditions which delayed sizing of the crop.

California's commercial early crop is currently estimated at 32,800,000 bushels compared with 25,800,000 bushels produced in 1952 and the ten year average of 24,780,000 bushels.

Total U. S. production of late spring commercial early Irish potatoes is estimated at 47,622,000 bushels from 163,800 acres. This compares with 1952 production of 36,797,000 bushels from 122,850 acres and the ten year average production of 38,559,000 bushels from an average acreage of 167,860 acres.

N. C. PEAR CROP OFF U. S. CROP LARGE

June 1 prospects are for a 1953 Tar Heel pear crop of 143,000 bushels - 29,000 bushels less than production in 1952 and 36,000 bushels short of the 10-year (1942-51) average.

The U. S. crop is estimated at 32,301,000 bushels - 4 percent above the 1952 crop and 6 percent above average.

MAY WEATHER SUMMARY

May weather in North Carolina was notable chiefly for the unusual heat; also outstanding were the abundant sunshine, the uneven distribution of rainfall, and the widespread incidence of locally destructive storms. Most of the storm damage was due to hail, but there was some due to strong winds and lightning. Nearly all of these local storms occurred between the 15th and 25th, and several of them on the 19th. Three-fourths of the daylight hours of the month were sunny; most of the cloudy weather that did occur came during the first ten days. No day was entirely without sunshine throughout North Carolina, nor was any day completely cloudless.

This was the hottest May on record for many parts of North Carolina, and probably for the entire State. Temperatures of 90 degrees or higher occurred in some localities on more than half the days of the month, and there were several reports of as high as 100 degrees on the last day or two. All-time high temperature records for the month of May were broken at some places in North Carolina, and numerous high records for individual dates were broken. Temperatures remained above seasonable levels on all but three or four days of the month. Averages for the entire month were about six degrees above normal, based on long-term records for May.

There were frequent, though generally light rains during the first eight days of May, some

places getting rain every day. After that the weather was mostly dry, with the only general rains occurring on or about the 19th. Most areas had heavy rains on or about the 7th and 19th, accounting for most of the month's total. Because of these two rains, many stations had normal or even above normal amounts of rain in May. Even so, the long dry periods between significant rains caused drought conditions in practically all sections. The ten days before and the ten days after the heavy rains of the 19th were dry except for scattered local showers. These, as well as the rains of the 19th, were punctuated with locally destructive hailstorms.

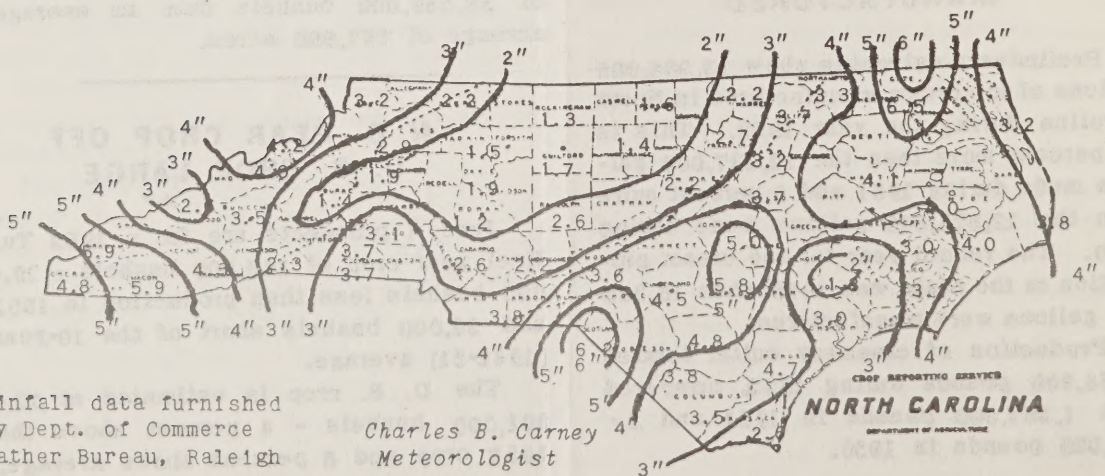
EGG PRODUCTION

North Carolina flocks produced 134 million eggs during May. Production during the month was 5 million under May output last year.

The drop in production resulted from a decline in rate of lay as well as a decrease in the number of layers on farms. Last month flocks averaged 1,680 eggs per hundred layers, whereas the rate was 1,714 eggs per hundred layers during May 1952.

The average number of layers on hand during May at 7,963,000 compares with 8,118,000 on hand during the same month a year ago.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL, MAY 1953



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY N. C. AND U. S. FARMERS FOR FURNITURE WITH COMPARISONS, 1952-1953

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		DEC. 15 1952	MAR. 15 1953	MAR. 15 1952	DEC. 15 1952	MAR. 15 1953	MAR. 15 1952
		- DOLLARS -					
RUGS, AXMINSTER 9' x 12'.....	EACH	79.00	76.00	78.00	84.70	84.50	88.70
RUGS, FELT BASE 9' x 12'.....	EACH	11.00	11.00	11.50	10.30	10.40	10.40
DINING-ROOM SUITES.....	EACH	255.00	250.00	245.00	241.00	243.00	241.00
LIVING-ROOM SUITES.....	EACH	155.00	155.00	160.00	184.00	185.00	186.00
BEDROOM SUITES.....	EACH	150.00	145.00	155.00	172.00	173.00	174.00
BEDSTEADS, METAL, DOUBLE.....	EACH	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.30	15.10	15.30
MATTRESSES 54", FELTED COTTON.....	EACH	30.00	27.50	28.00	24.50	23.80	24.50
BED SPRINGS, DOUBLE, SAGLESS.....	EACH	19.50	19.50	19.00	19.20	19.20	18.90
KITCHEN CABINETS.....	EACH	58.00	59.00	56.00	58.70	58.30	59.50
STOVES 6-HOLE KITCHEN RANGE.....	EACH	98.00	91.00	98.00	117.00	117.00	117.00
WASHING MACHINE, WRINGER TYPE, ELEC.	EACH	135.00	130.00	135.00	134.00	133.00	135.00
WASHING MACHINE, AUTOMATIC, ELEC....	EACH	285.00	290.00	290.00	294.00	293.00	295.00

CLOTHING PRICES DECLINE

Average prices paid by North Carolina farmers for specified clothing items (as shown in the accompanying table) on March 15, 1953 were generally lower than prices paid in mid-March of 1952. The only item in this group showing an increase over the previous year was knee-length rubber boots. Compared with December 15, 1952 prices of most items were unchanged to slightly lower.

FURNITURE PRICES LOWER

Average prices paid by farmers for most furniture items on March 15, 1953 were generally lower than prices paid on the same date a year earlier. For most items prices were also below the averages for the previous quarter (December 15, 1952). The accompanying table shows the average prices paid by farmers for specified furniture items around March 15, 1953 for North Carolina and the United States.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY N. C. AND U. S. FARMERS FOR CLOTHING WITH COMPARISONS, 1952-1953

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		DEC. 15 1952	MAR. 15 1952	MAR. 15 1953	DEC. 15 1952	MAR. 15 1952	MAR. 15 1953
		- DOLLARS -					
SUITS, WOOL, 1 PAIR PANTS.....	EACH	40.50	40.50	39.50	43.00	44.80	43.00
EXTRA TROUSERS, WOOLEN.....	PAIR	11.50	10.50	10.50	11.20	11.30	11.00
TROUSERS, COTTON.....	PAIR	4.15	4.00	3.90	4.16	4.11	4.02
OVERALLS.....	PAIR	3.20	3.30	3.30	3.47	3.48	3.47
SHIRTS, COTTON, WORK.....	EACH	2.20	2.20	2.15	1.94	1.96	1.92
SOCKS, COTTON, WORK.....	PAIR	.32	.30	.30	.306	.304	.302
UNDERSHIRTS.....	EACH	.62	.66	.63	.653	.662	.650
SHORTS.....	PAIR	.76	.79	.76	.764	.783	.771
SHOES, WORK, MEN'S.....	PAIR	6.70	6.80	6.60	6.87	7.16	6.87
BOOTS, RUBBER, KNEE-LENGTH....	PAIR	5.90	5.90	6.00	6.21	6.17	6.18
DRESSES, HOUSE, PERCALE.....	EACH	3.00	2.95	2.90	3.07	3.07	3.12
RAYON PANTIES.....	PAIR	.62	.62	.60	.644	.666	.640
SHOES OR OXFORDS, WOMEN'S.....	PAIR	5.30	5.60	5.20	5.43	5.65	5.42
MUSLIN, UNBLEACHED 36" WIDE...	YARD	.28	.30	.29	.317	.329	.312
PERCALE, 36" WIDE.....	YARD	.40	.48	.40	.468	.471	.469

TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

SNAP BEANS: North Carolina's late spring snap bean crop is currently estimated at 496,000 bushels. This compares with 428,000 bushels produced in 1952 and the 3-year average (1949-51) production of 423,000 bushels. Harvest began the week of May 17 and should reach volume movement during the last week of May and the first of June. In most areas quality is only fair due to dry weather during May, but demand, generally, has been good.

In Virginia, warm and an abundance of moisture during May greatly improved snap bean prospects. Picking on the lower Eastern Shore began the last week in May and peak movement is anticipated in mid-June.

CABBAGE: Reports from Tar Heel cabbage growers, as of June 1, indicate production from the State's 1,000 acres of late spring cabbage is 400 tons -- an average yield of 7 tons per acre. If such a yield is realized, it will be the highest of record since 1938 when the average yield was 8.0 tons per acre. Last year's production totaled 9,500 tons from 1,500 acres for an average yield of 5.0 tons.

Harvest of the North Carolina crop will be virtually complete by mid-June. Supplies from Virginia will continue plentiful until mid-June. Light shipments are expected from Tennessee through the week of June 8 with the deal expected to close about June 13.

CUCUMBERS: June 1 condition reports on North Carolina's fresh market cucumber crop point to a total production of 416,000 bushels or an average yield of 85 bushels per acre from 4,900 acres. The 1952 production was 348,000 bushels from 4,100 acres for an average yield of 85 bushels. The 1949-51 average production is 457,000 bushels from 6,100 acres.

Harvest, in North Carolina, is expected to begin about June 7, with peak season about June 15. Hot, dry weather during May has reduced yields in Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. A light harvest started in the Blackville-

Barnwell area of South Carolina about May 25 with heaviest movement expected in early June.

GREEN PEPPERS: Reports from North Carolina growers indicate 4,200 acres of green peppers will be harvested this year -- an increase of 20 percent over the 3,500 acres harvested in 1952, but the same acreage as the 3-year average. June 1 condition reports point to a yield of 150 bushels per acre which, if realized, would mean a production of 630,000 bushels. In 1952, 438,000 bushels were produced with an average yield of 125 bushels per acre.

Indicated production in the four early summer states (including North Carolina) is 1,352,000 bushels which is significantly larger than last year. This expected increase in production is the result of increased acreage and a higher expected yield per acre in all states. Growers in Louisiana have been picking peppers since the latter part of May and harvest is expected to begin about June 15 in the other early summer areas.

STRAWBERRIES: Harvest of the North Carolina strawberry crop was practically complete by June 1, however very light harvest carried the deal through to about June 7. Production from the State's 1,900 acres is estimated at 190,000 crates (24 qt.) -- a yield of 100 crates per acre. This year's production compares with 189,000 crates produced last year when an average yield of 90 crates per acre was realized from 2,100 acres.

The final forecast for the 1953 crop in the mid-spring group of states (including North Carolina) is 4,381,000 crates, down 3 percent from the May 1 forecast, 25 percent less than the 1952 production and 12 percent under the 1949-51 average crop.

WATERMELONS: According to reports from growers, 9,000 acres of watermelons will be available for harvest in North Carolina this year. Condition reports as June 1 indicate an average yield of 215 melons per acre and a total production of 1,935,000 melons. Last year 1,784,000 melons were produced on 8,700 acres, resulting in an average yield of 205 melons per acre.

Prospective production of 73,521,000

melons for the 12 early summer states is 20 percent above last summer's early crop of 61,378,000 melons and 10 percent above the 1949-51 average of 66,830,000 melons. All states in the group, except Louisiana and Missouri, expect larger crops than in 1952.

CANTALOUPS: A preliminary estimate of cantaloup acreage for North Carolina shows 4,500 acres for 1953 -- 15 percent above the 3,900 acres harvested in 1952, but 4 percent below the 1949-51 average of 4,700 acres. June 1 condition reports indicate a production of 270,000 crates -- a yield of 60 crates per acre. Production last year was 176,000 crates with an average yield of 45 crates per acre.

TOMATOES: North Carolina's early summer tomato crop is currently estimated at 2,800 acres. Conditions, as of June 1, indicate a production of 238,000 bushels -- an average yield of 85 bushels per acre. This compares with last year's production of 176,000 bushels from 2,200 acres -- a yield average of 80 bushels per acre. Harvest is expected to begin in late June -- about two weeks later than usual.

An increase in acreage and generally good yield prospects in early summer states (including North Carolina) are expected to result in a large crop this season. In southeastern Alabama harvest began May 20, two weeks earlier than normal, but hot, dry weather has impaired quality and resulted in a heavy drop of blooms. In northern Alabama the crop was late going in, but has made satisfactory progress and is now in good condition. The Virginia tomato crop is in good condition and the Eastern Shore section should begin harvesting greens the week of June 15, which is two weeks earlier than normal. Wet weather delayed setting of the Kentucky tomato acreage and there will apparently be few tomatoes harvested there in June.

SWEET CORN: Production of 1953 sweet corn in North Carolina is estimated at 720,000 units (5 doz. ears) as of June 1, compared with the 668,000 units harvested in 1952 and the 1949-51 average production of 762,000 units. Such a production, if realized, would mean an average yield of 90 units per acre from the

State's 8,000 acres of sweet corn. In 1952, an average yield of 75 units per acre was harvested from 8,900 acres. Harvest is expected to begin around mid-June, continuing in the mountain counties until late July.

Supplies in the early summer group of states (including North Carolina) are expected to be larger than in 1952 and about average -- 5,729,000 units for 1953 compared with 5,302,000 units in 1952. Acreage is either equal to or larger than in 1952 in all states except North Carolina and Virginia. In Virginia, some early fields are silking and harvest is expected to begin during the week of June 22.

RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Estimated milk production in North Carolina during May totaled 159 million pounds, the highest of record for the month. The previous high for the month was set in 1951 when production reached 155 million pounds. Production last month compares with 150 million pounds produced in May of last year and with the 1942-51 May average of 141 million pounds.

Meanwhile, production of milk on U. S. farms, although 5 percent above a year ago, failed to reach a new record level for the month for the first time in 7 months. Output during May is estimated at 12,610 million pounds, within 1 percent of the record May output of 12,696 million pounds produced in 1945, and 2 percent above the 10-year average for the month.

RYE PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

North Carolina will harvest a 1953 rye crop of 270,000 bushels, according to reports from growers as of June 1. This is a 45,000 bushel increase over 1952 production, but 33,000 bushels below the 1942-51 average. The expected average yield of 15.0 bushels per acre equals the record set by the 1952 crop and is 3 bushels above the 10-year average.

FARM REPORT

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JUNE CROP OUTLOOK (Continued)

State since June 1, bringing some improvement in the crop prospects. However, the amount of rain received in many areas to-date will provide temporary relief only.

Corn shows variable progress. Growth during the month of May was held back by dry soils. Most of the corn acreage in Coastal Areas has been "laid-by". Peach prospects declined some during the month. The June 1 forecast is for a North Carolina crop of 1,360,000 bushels, about 18 percent below the 1951 crop.

Weather during May was ideal for small grain harvest. Through the first week of June about 1/3 of the wheat crop had been harvested and nearly 1/2 of the oats, barley and rye crops. Production prospects continue favorable for all small grains, with the June 1 forecast still

pointing to a wheat crop of 8.8 million bushels and a rye crop of 270,000 bushels.

Dry weather during May was very favorable for "making hay". Alfalfa growers realized good yields from their first cuttings of alfalfa. Some second cuttings are now being made. Recent rains will improve yield prospects for all growing hay crops. Pasture conditions declined during the month due to drouth conditions.

Milk production on North Carolina farms during May was 159 million pounds - the highest of record for the month. Placements of chicks in the Central and Western Commercial Broiler Areas of the State reached 4,897,000 birds during May. North Carolina flocks produced 134 million eggs during the month - 5 million under May output last year.